

About This Area

Clearwater Conservation Area lies southwest of Clearwater Lake in Reynolds County. This approximately 12,000-acre area is made up of what used to be known as Webb Creek State Forest and Clearwater State Forest. Access is from Highways H, HH, 34, and 21. The area is composed of several scattered tracts that are separated by privately owned properties. Much of the forest was harvested around the turn-of-the-century, resulting in the ridges and easily accessible areas containing primarily pole-size timber. However, high quality timber remains in the steeper hollows and draws. Wildlife watering holes are scattered throughout the larger tracts to provide much needed water on the dry ridges. A prominent feature of this area is Bear Mountain, an isolated rhyolite knob that is a southern outlier of the St. Francois Mountains. It is one of the few outcrops of volcanic rock in southern Reynolds County. A deep muck fen natural community lies between a north facing slope and a small, intermittent stream in Deckard Hollow. The fen is dominated by rice cutgrass and sedges, and is home to a total of 33 different plant species. Glossy leaved aster is a northern species whose distribution shifted southward with glaciation. As glaciers retreated, this plant survived in Missouri only as isolated populations in fens, which provide a relatively cool microclimate. Other natural communities of the conservation area include dry-mesic chert and dry-mesic limestone/dolomite forests, a second fen, a sinkhole pond, and a dry sink. During your visit to the area, you may view various forest improvement practices designed to improve tree growth, tree quality, diversity, and species composition. Forest management practices also enhance wildlife habitat, help maintain watershed quality and sustain forest health. Any physical disturbance is temporary. Wildlife habitat management includes the creation of watering ponds and the manipulation of fields within the forest to provide added food sources. Timber harvests are also an important element in habitat management. They produce forage and cover for forest wildlife and habitat diversity. All boundaries are marked from tree to tree with blue paint. Conservation area signs are also posted where boundaries intersect state county roads or private lands.

RECREATIONAL OPPORTUNITIES

Bird Watching — Fishing — Hiking — Hunting
Wildlife Viewing

Conservation Areas are closed from 10 p.m. to 4 a.m. except for authorized camping, fishing and hunting activities.

- Hiking is permitted on interior roads and trails.

- Primitive camping is permitted along interior roads. Walk-in camping is allowed anytime, except during all deer and turkey seasons.
- Campers are limited to 14 consecutive days in a 30-day period. Groups of 10 or more campers need a special use permit.
- Motor vehicles are allowed on public roadways and in parking areas.
- Nuts, berries, fruits, mushrooms and wild greens may be taken for personal use. Cutting or removing other vegetation is prohibited.
- Dogs must be leashed when not used for training or hunting.

Hunting and Trapping

Hunting is allowed under statewide seasons and limits with the following exceptions:

- Deer hunting is permitted under statewide seasons and limits.
- Portable tree stands may be placed and used between September 1 and January 31. Unattended stands must be plainly labeled on a durable material with the full name and address, or conservation number, of the owner and be removed from the area before February 1. Use of nails, screw-in steps, and any material or method that would damage the tree is prohibited.
- Furbearer trapping is permitted by special use permit.

For local information, contact:

**Missouri Department of Conservation
2302 County Park Drive
Cape Girardeau, MO 63701
(573) 290-5730**

Additional area information is posted on bulletin boards located in parking areas and area offices.

3/2014

(Regulations are from the Wildlife Code of Missouri and selected statutes of the State of Missouri. Special area regulations are in Chapter 11 of the Wildlife Code. A free printed copy of the Wildlife Code, which lists most area regulations, is available from the Conservation Department. Chapter 11 in its entirety is available at www.sos.mo.gov/adrules/csr/current/3csr/3csr.asp.) Equal opportunity to participate in and benefit from programs of the Missouri Department of Conservation is available to all individuals without regard to their race, color, national origin, sex, age or disability. Questions should be directed to the Department of Conservation, P.O. Box 180, Jefferson City, MO 65102, (573) 751-4115 (voice) or 800-735-2966 (TTY), or to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Division of Federal Assistance, 4401 N. Fairfax Drive, Mail Stop: MBSP-4020, Arlington, VA 22203.

Clearwater

CONSERVATION AREA



MISSOURI DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION